



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Employment Commission

Ellen Marie Hess
Commissioner

Post Office Box 1358
703 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1358

For Release: November 19, 2019

Contact: Timothy Aylor, Senior Economist
Economic Information & Analytics Division
(804) 786-3976 or (804) 786-7496

Follow us on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/VirginiaLMI>.

Virginia's Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate Declined 0.1 Percentage Point in October to 2.6 Percent

— Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was up 8,000 jobs
between September 2019 and October 2019—

RICHMOND— Virginia's **seasonally adjusted** unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in October to 2.6 percent, which is 0.2 percentage point below the rate from a year ago. According to household survey data in October, the labor force expanded for the sixteenth consecutive month by 13,547, or 0.3 percent to set a new record high of 4,427,753, as the number of unemployed residents decreased by 2,368. The number of employed residents increased by 15,915 to set a new high of 4,311,113. Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national rate, which increased to 3.6 percent.

Virginia nonagricultural wage and salary employment, from the monthly establishment survey, increased by 8,000 jobs in October to 4,029,700. September's preliminary estimates were revised downward 4,100, further subtracting from that month's lower job numbers. In October, private sector employment increased by 7,200 jobs to 3,309,000, while public sector payrolls increased by 800 jobs to 720,700.

(more)

Toll Free: 1 (866) 832-2363
E-Mail: customerservice@vec.virginia.gov

VRC/TDD VA Relay 711
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

From September 2019 to October 2019, **seasonally adjusted** employment increased in seven major industry divisions, was unchanged in one, and decreased in three. The largest job gain during October occurred in **leisure and hospitality** with a gain of 8,900 jobs to 424,700. Other employment gains included **government** (800 jobs) to 720,700, **miscellaneous services** (800 jobs) to 202,400, and **trade and transportation** (800 jobs) to 653,200. The largest loss during October occurred in **manufacturing** (-2,100 jobs) to 243,600. The second largest loss was **professional and business services** (-2,000 jobs) to 752,400. A third employment loss was **private education and health services** (-200 jobs) to 553,000. For total **government**, gains occurred in local government (900 jobs) and federal government (600 jobs), while state government decreased by 700 jobs.

Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Employment			September 2019 to October 2019		October 2018 to October 2019	
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	4,029,700	4,021,700	4,000,100	8,000	0.2%	29,600	0.7%
Total Private Sector	3,309,000	3,301,800	3,276,600	7,200	0.2%	32,400	1.0%
Goods-Producing	451,100	452,700	446,400	-1,600	-0.4%	4,700	1.1%
Mining	8,300	8,300	7,900	0	0.0%	400	5.1%
Construction	199,200	198,700	197,500	500	0.3%	1,700	0.9%
Manufacturing	243,600	245,700	241,000	-2,100	-0.9%	2,600	1.1%
Service-Providing	3,578,600	3,569,000	3,553,700	9,600	0.3%	24,900	0.7%
Private Service-Providing	2,857,900	2,849,100	2,830,200	8,800	0.3%	27,700	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	653,200	652,400	657,400	800	0.1%	-4,200	-0.6%
Information	63,200	63,000	65,700	200	0.3%	-2,500	-3.8%
Finance	209,000	208,700	207,400	300	0.1%	1,600	0.8%
Professional and Business Services	752,400	754,400	749,400	-2,000	-0.3%	3,000	0.4%
Education and Health Services	553,000	553,200	542,300	-200	0.0%	10,700	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality Services	424,700	415,800	406,800	8,900	2.1%	17,900	4.4%
Miscellaneous Services	202,400	201,600	201,200	800	0.4%	1,200	0.6%
Government	720,700	719,900	723,500	800	0.1%	-2,800	-0.4%
Federal Government	180,200	179,600	179,700	600	0.3%	500	0.3%
State Government	160,700	161,400	159,500	-700	-0.4%	1,200	0.8%
Local Government	379,800	378,900	384,300	900	0.2%	-4,500	-1.2%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

From October 2018 to October 2019, BLS estimates that establishments in Virginia added 29,600 jobs, or 0.7 percent. Over-the-year employment growth in Virginia has been positive for 67 consecutive months and has maintained strength over the last several months. In October, the private sector recorded an over-the-year gain of 32,400 jobs, while employment in the public sector decreased by 2,800 jobs.

(more)

Compared to a year ago, on a **seasonally adjusted** basis, eight of the eleven major industry divisions experienced employment gains, while three experienced employment losses. The largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **leisure and hospitality**, up 17,900 jobs (+4.4 percent). The next largest over-the-year job gain occurred in **private education and health services**, up 10,700 jobs (+2.0 percent). **Professional and business services** experienced the third largest over-the-year job gain of 3,000 jobs (+0.4 percent). Other gains were in **manufacturing**, up 2,600 jobs (+1.1 percent); **construction**, up 1,700 jobs (+0.9 percent); **finance**, up 1,600 jobs (+0.8 percent); **miscellaneous services**, up 1,200 jobs (0.6 percent); and **mining**, up 400 jobs (+5.1 percent). The largest job loss occurred in **trade and transportation**, down 4,200 jobs (-0.6 percent). The second largest was in **government**, down by 2,800 jobs (-0.4 percent). Government saw gains in state government employment (1,200 jobs) and federal government employment (500 jobs) along with a loss in local government employment (-4,500 jobs).

Total Nonfarm Employment in Virginia* Seasonally Adjusted

Area	Employment			September 2019 to October 2019		October 2018 to October 2019	
	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Virginia	4,029,700	4,021,700	4,000,100	8,000	0.2%	29,600	0.7%
Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford MSA	73,600	77,500	76,400	-3,900	-5.0%	-2,800	-3.7%
Charlottesville MSA	120,000	120,200	118,300	-200	-0.2%	1,700	1.4%
Harrisonburg MSA	69,400	69,600	68,200	-200	-0.3%	1,200	1.8%
Lynchburg MSA	106,400	106,100	105,500	300	0.3%	900	0.9%
Northern Virginia MSA	1,515,000	1,508,600	1,489,400	6,400	0.4%	25,600	1.7%
Richmond MSA	682,900	683,100	677,600	-200	0.0%	5,300	0.8%
Roanoke MSA	163,500	163,500	161,400	0	0.0%	2,100	1.3%
Staunton-Waynesboro MSA	51,900	51,800	51,000	100	0.2%	900	1.8%
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Virginia/North Carolina MSA	791,200	790,700	787,200	500	0.1%	4,000	0.5%
Winchester, Virginia/West Virginia MSA	66,300	66,200	64,800	100	0.2%	1,500	2.3%

*Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment data is produced for ten metropolitan areas. In October, five metropolitan areas experienced over-the-month job gains, one was unchanged, and four experienced losses. The largest absolute job gain occurred in Northern Virginia (+6,400 jobs). The second largest absolute job gain occurred in Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News (+500 jobs). The third largest absolute job gain was in Lynchburg (+300 jobs). The largest job loss occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford (-3,900 jobs). Others with declines include: Charlottesville (-200 jobs); Harrisonburg (-200 jobs); and Richmond (-200 jobs).

Over the year, **seasonally adjusted** total nonfarm employment increased in nine of the ten metropolitan areas. The Northern Virginia metropolitan area experienced the largest absolute job gain, up

(more)

25,600 jobs (+1.7 percent). Richmond was ranked second, with a gain of 5,300 jobs (+0.8 percent), while Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News was ranked third, with a gain of 4,000 jobs (+0.5 percent). The other over-the-year job gains occurred in: Roanoke (+2,100 jobs); Charlottesville (+1,700 jobs); Winchester (+1,500 jobs); Harrisonburg (+1,200 jobs); and Lynchburg and Staunton (+900 jobs each). The sole job loss occurred in Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Radford with a loss of 2,800 jobs (-3.7 percent).

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

Virginia's **unadjusted** unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in October to 2.4 percent, which was down 0.3 percentage point from a year ago. Compared to a year ago, the number of unemployed decreased by 8,245, household employment increased by 120,919, and the labor force increased by 112,665. Virginia's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be below the national unadjusted rate, which was unchanged in October at 3.3 percent.

Compared to last month, the October **unadjusted** workweek for Virginia's 166,000 manufacturing production workers increased by 0.3 hour to 40.0 hours, average hourly earnings decreased \$0.20 to \$19.45, while average weekly earnings fell \$2.11 to \$778.00. Compared to last October, the unadjusted workweek decreased by 0.9 hour, average hourly earnings increased by \$0.22, and average weekly earnings were lower by \$8.51.

Technical note: Estimates of unemployment and industry employment levels are obtained from two separate monthly surveys. Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the Virginia portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the U.S. Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the "household" survey). Industry employment data is mainly derived from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of approximately 18,000 Virginia businesses conducted by BLS, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the "establishment" survey). Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by the BLS.

The statistical reference week for the household survey this month was the week of October 6-12, 2019.

The Virginia Employment Commission plans to release the October local area unemployment rates on Wednesday, November 27, 2019. The data will be available on our website, www.VirginiaWorks.com.

The November statewide unemployment rate and employment data for both the state and metropolitan areas are scheduled to be released on Friday, December 20, 2019.

###

(more)